



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region V

**Subject:** POLREP #13  
Progress  
Pilsen Soil Operable Unit 2 Residential  
C5N8RV02  
Chicago, IL

**To:** Bruce Everetts, Illinois EPA  
Mark Johnson, ATSDR  
Vicente Sanchez, Alderman Solis (Chief of Staff)  
Dave Graham, Chicago Dept. of Health  
Terry Sheahan, Chicago Dept. of Health  
Doug Ballotti, USEPA  
Samuel Borries, EPA Region 5  
Blaine Kinsley, IL EPA  
Peachey Robert, EPA Region 5  
EOC HQ, EPA HQ

**From:** Ramon Mendoza, On-Scene Coordinator

**Date:** 10/28/2017

**Reporting Period:** 10/9/2017 to 10/27/2017

952329

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

|                            |              |                                |                |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Site Number:</b>        | C5N8RV02     | <b>Contract Number:</b>        |                |
| <b>D.O. Number:</b>        |              | <b>Action Memo Date:</b>       | 8/3/2015       |
| <b>Response Authority:</b> | CERCLA       | <b>Response Type:</b>          | Time-Critical  |
| <b>Response Lead:</b>      | PRP          | <b>Incident Category:</b>      | Removal Action |
| <b>NPL Status:</b>         | Non NPL      | <b>Operable Unit:</b>          | 2              |
| <b>Mobilization Date:</b>  | 12/19/2016   | <b>Start Date:</b>             | 12/20/2016     |
| <b>Demob Date:</b>         |              | <b>Completion Date:</b>        |                |
| <b>CERCLIS ID:</b>         | ILN000504472 | <b>RCRIS ID:</b>               |                |
| <b>ERNS No.:</b>           |              | <b>State Notification:</b>     |                |
| <b>FPN#:</b>               |              | <b>Reimbursable Account #:</b> |                |

1.1.1 Incident Category

This time critical removal action is a PRP lead under an EPA Unilateral Administrative Order.

1.1.2 Site Description

Pilsen Soil Operable Unit 2 (OU2) Residential Site : Operable Unit (OU) 2 is a residential area bounded by West 18th Place to the north, a north-south alley between South Allport Street and South Racine Avenue to the east, West 21st Street to the south, and South Loomis Street to the west. There are about 178 residential properties in this 25-acre OU2 site. About 116 of the properties have non-permanent covers in their yards such as bare soil, grass or gravel and are the focus of EPA actions. In 2010, approximately 1,563 people lived within the boundaries of the Site, and the residential yards have high accessibility to sensitive populations including young children and pregnant women.

1.1.2.1 Location Chicago, Illinois 60608

See Site Description

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The lead concentration in surface soils are above the EPA screening level of 400 mg/kg lead in residential yards and gardens. Residents living in these homes may be exposed to the lead in these surface soils.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

EPA conducted Site Assessment activities in 2013 to 2015 with additional residential parcels in 2016 sampled. Lead was found in surface soils in the residential yards and gardens above the EPA removal management level of 400 parts per million. The average Site surface soil lead concentrations were 1,412 mg/kg. There is an estimated population of around 1,563 people including children living, walking, working, and playing on the contaminated surface soils in the Site. These people have a high accessibility to residential yards including sensitive populations such as young children and pregnant women. EPA's risk assessment concluded that the soil concentrations of lead at the Site are at an unacceptable risk level to the residents accessing the Site.

time oversight of removal activities on site, and collected soil samples as needed for XRF analysis. GHD (H.Kramer's contractor) had representatives on-site to oversee the removal work. Removal work was also conducted by GHD's contractor RW Collins. START and/or EPA OSC, documented property specific removal activities by recording field notes and by taking photographs. Air monitoring as required by OSHA was conducted by GHD.

**2.1.2 Response Actions to Date** The following work was conducted from 9/18/17 to 10/6/2017. (Work from Dec.2016 through 10/6/2017 is documented in POLREPs #1 to 12). Cleanup was conducted at 9 homes and completed at 4 homes during this period.

Work was conducted after H. Kramer's contractor (GHD) contacted the owners and agreed on a scope of work in writing. Below is a removal status summary of each of the properties. Four of the 6 properties were 3-4 ft. below the street level with limited access, which made excavation work more difficult and time consuming. GHD conducted project management, particulate air monitoring during excavation and backfill activities at the residential and soil staging areas. RW Collins contractor/laborers conducted the physical work of excavation and backfilling of soil and also managed the soil at the H. Kramer property staging area.

In general, lead contaminated soil was excavated by hand with shovels and fed into a vacuum hose to the vacuum truck. After it was filled the truck was driven to the soil staging area at H. Krame'sr truck yard and the soil was transferred to steel containers, which are then transported for disposal to a solid waste landfill (Waste Management, Laraway) in Joliet IL. For backfilling, clean soil was transferred from the flatbed truck to the yard by conveyor belts, shovels and wheelbarrows to backfill. An orange fence marker was placed at the bottom of the excavation before backfilling. Final surface cover could be gravel, soil, or sod (new grass), depending on the owner preference.

Air monitoring at the homes and staging area did not show violations of the OSHA PEL criteria during this reporting period. Dust control practices were being conducted using plastic sheets to partition indoor spaces in garages on Allport. Workers wore level D with rubber booties and gloves during excavation of lead contaminated. GHD provided a boot wash to protect workers and minimize soil migration outside of the work area.

During this period, EPA used handheld XRF as a tool to analyze the bottom of excavations for lead. EPA may allow shallower excavations (less than 2 feet) if the lead in soil is less than the cleanup goal of 400 mg/kg lead. As mentioned, EPA collected split soil samples for lab analyses one of the homes Backyard at **Non-Responsive**. Split samples were also collected at two homes for the purposes of remediation during this period.

**Non-Responsive** **Week of 10/23-27** - Crews started excavation of yards and gardens at 5 homes all next to one another. Rain stopped work for one day. Excavations are ongoing.

**Non-Responsive** **Week of 10/9 - 20** Work was started at two homes. The yard on Allport had a garden and yard which were large enough to be accessed by excavator and skid loader. The backyard on Throop required the placement of sod in the east side and a replacement of gravel driveway on the west. Both of these homes were completed by Oct 20.

**Non-Responsive** **Week of 10/2-6** - Two homes with backyard and frontyard each were remediated during this period. At one home the front yard and backyard were replaced and the other had the front yard replaced only since the soil sample/lab indicated that the backyard was below the action level for lead. Iland completed this week. Backyards were excavated and backfilled with clean soil and fresh sod. Cleanup is complete.

**Media Interest:** There was no media interest during the reporting period.

### 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

During EPA's Removal Site Evaluation (2013-14), H. Kramer & Co. was identified as a significant contributor to the lead found in surface soils in the residential parcels at the Site, due to historical fugitive air emissions of dust which contained lead (slag and zinc oxide). The response work is being overseen by EPA/START contractor and is being conducted by H. Kramer's contractors under a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) issued by the USEPA (Sept. 2016). Previous sampling work was conducted from April to June 2016 by H. Kramer's contractors at the Site under an EPA (CERCLA Administrative Order on Consent; to determine the amount of homes above the lead screening level of 400 mg/kg which needed to be cleaned up.

### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics :

As of Oct 13, 2017, 40 residential parcels have undergone cleanup and completed or have been removed from the cleanup list.

During the reporting period, about 129 tons of lead contaminated soil was disposed. As of the week of Oct. 13, 2017. H Kramer's contractors have disposed of about 567 tons of non-hazardous lead contaminated soil to the solid waste landfill facility in Joliet, IL.; Since Excavations of parcels were initiated in Dec. 2016.

| Waste Stream | Medium | Quantity (in tons) | Manifest /Ticket# | Treatment | Disposal   |
|--------------|--------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|--|
| Soil         |        | 10.16              | 851385            |           | Laraway RDF, Waste Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 10/23/2016 |

|      |  |       |        |  |  |
|------|--|-------|--------|--|--|
| Soil |  | 12.39 | 891212 |  | Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 4/28/2017                       |
| Soil |  | 7.95  | 894904 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 5/08/2017 |
| Soil |  | 11.98 | 896484 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 5/10/2017 |
| Soil |  | 13.78 | 898993 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 5/16/2017 |
| Soil |  | 13.71 | 900453 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 5/18/2017 |
| Soil |  | 11.89 | 900819 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 5/19/2017 |
| Soil |  | 10.49 | 901772 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 5/23/2017 |
| Soil |  | 10.92 | 902005 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 5/23/2017 |
| Soil |  | 9.66  | 902633 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 5/24/2017 |
| Soil |  | 10.65 | 904544 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 5/31/2017 |
| Soil |  | 11.78 | 904744 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 5/31/2017 |
| Soil |  | 12.69 | 915148 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 6/20/2017 |
| Soil |  | 10.51 | 912918 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 6/19/2017 |
| Soil |  | 12.71 | 923037 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 7/17/2017 |
| Soil |  | 14.29 | 923543 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 7/18/2017 |
| Soil |  | 12.56 | 925351 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 7/21/2017 |
| Soil |  | 13.33 | 925625 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 7/24/2017 |
| Soil |  | 13.62 | 926172 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 7/25/2017 |
| Soil |  | 14.09 | 926615 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 7/26/2017 |
| Soil |  | 12.76 | 927883 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 7/27/2017 |
| Soil |  | 13.66 | 933810 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 8/14/2017 |
| Soil |  | 15.47 | 935594 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 8/17/2017 |
| Soil |  | 13.76 | 941816 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 9/1/2017  |
| Soil |  | 15.33 | 940041 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 8/29/2017 |
| Soil |  | 13.09 | 941952 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 9/5/2017  |
| Soil |  | 14.16 | 945518 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.<br>Shipped 9/6/2017  |
| Soil |  | 15.14 | 945956 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste<br>Management, Joliet, IL.                      |

|      |  |       |        |  |   |
|------|--|-------|--------|--|---|
| Soil |  |       |        |  | Shipped 9/18/2017   |
| Soil |  | 12.12 | 959184 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste Management, Joliet, IL. Shipped 9/20/2017  |
| Soil |  | 13.69 | 951525 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste Management, Joliet, IL. Shipped 9/22/2017  |
| Soil |  | 12.51 | 953264 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste Management, Joliet, IL. Shipped 9/27/2017  |
| Soil |  | 16.95 | 961224 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste Management, Joliet, IL. Shipped 10/10/2017 |
| Soil |  | 18.71 | 961440 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste Management, Joliet, IL. Shipped 10/10/2017 |
| Soil |  | 18.48 | 961668 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste Management, Joliet, IL. Shipped 10/10/2017 |
| Soil |  | 15.39 | 963390 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste Management, Joliet, IL. Shipped 10/13/2017 |
| Soil |  | 13.12 | 963391 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste Management, Joliet, IL. Shipped 10/13/2017 |
| Soil |  | 16.15 | 963537 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste Management, Joliet, IL. Shipped 10/13/2017 |
| Soil |  | 17.77 | 963538 |  | Laraway RDF, Waste Management, Joliet, IL. Shipped 10/13/2017 |

## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

#### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

During the week of Oct 30, RW Collins and GHD will continue excavation and backfill work at homes on **Non-Responsive**

#### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps:

During OSC's absence START will perform onsite visits/inspection at the OSC's direction to keep track of progress and report back.

#### 2.2.2 Issues :

There is Gang activity in the area we are working with the owners to let them know who we are where we are working and making sure identification vest are worn onsite at all times. Police have been notified and are aware of our work area.

## 2.3 Logistics Section

In addition to the crew and hand tools, work is supported by a vac truck, one skid steer, one flatbed truck, 10 yard containers, 3 1X10 foot conveyor belts, and two pickup trucks.

## 2.4 Finance Section

### 2.4.1 Narrative

The START total budget ceiling is currently \$120,000. Of this amount, approximately \$80,304 (as of Oct 26 2017) has been spent overseeing the responsible party contractor removal activities, overseeing responsible party contractor sampling activities, and collecting/analyzing soil samples under the EPA Administrative Order on Consent. Additional funds were utilized for technical support for the Unilateral Administrative Order for the Site. This additional budget is estimated to fund START's continued oversight work and cleanup support through Nov. 2017

#### Estimated Costs \*

|                         | Budgeted     | Total To Date | Remaining   | % Remaining |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Extramural Costs</b> |              |               |             |             |
| TAT/START               | \$120,000.00 | \$80,304.00   | \$39,696.00 | 33.08%      |
| <b>Intramural Costs</b> |              |               |             |             |



accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

## 2.5 Other Command Staff

### 2.5.1 Safety Officer

Ramon Mendoza, EPA OSC;  
Walt Pochron, Ivan Navarro; GHD (H. Kramer contractor)

### 2.5.2 Liaison Officer

EPA Community Relations: Heriberto Leon

### 2.5.3 Information Officer

EPA PIO: Francisco Arcaute, Rachel Bassler

## 3. Participating Entities

### 3.1 Unified Command

None

### 3.2 Cooperating Agencies

City of Chicago, Alderman Solis Office  
City of Chicago Dept. of Public Health;  
Illinois EPA  
ATSDR

## 4. Personnel On Site

| Pilsen OU2 Removal – Personnel Counts<br>Notes: START is EPA's oversight contractor<br>GHD and RW Collins are H. Kramer Contractors. |  |     |            |   |  |
|--|--|-----|------------|---|--|
| Date   | EPA  | GHD | RW Collins | EPA/START   |  |
| Oct /2017  | 1 OSC<br>Visit the<br>site 3 to 4<br>days /week<br>oversight | 1   | 5          | 1 (present<br>onsite on as<br>needed basis<br>at this<br>time.) |  |
|  |  |     |            |   |  |

## 5. Definition of Terms

N/A

## 6. Additional sources of information

### 6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

<https://www.epa.gov/il/pilsen-area-soil-site>

### 6.2 Reporting Schedule

POLREPS will be issued every two weeks as appropriate.

## 7. Situational Reference Materials

See link for the Site at: <https://www.epa.gov/il/pilsen-area-soil-site>

























